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Kadafi's Game

Washington.

THE SCENE is the People's Hall, Tripoli, March 2, 1984. The speaker is (who else) Colonel Muammar Kadafi, ruler of Libya and a linchpin of the world terrorist network. His words that day, as broadcast by Radio Tripoli, are important reading for those who think that the latest bombing of a

By Morton Kondracke

U.S. Embassy was "senseless violence," as a Reagan administration spokesman put it.

Before getting to his plans for America, Mr. Kadafi has some words for his own people, specifically about popular resistance to his plans to draft women into the army.

This, he says, is the work of "reactionary forces in Libya. This group (the reactionaries) is very dirty. There is no point in it living on earth. It drinks, it eats, and does not produce. It is an agent for America. It constitutes a fifth column for America and for the Israelis."

The resistance to military service for women is the only concrete internal trouble that Kadafi refers to, but it's known now that there has also been violent resistance to his rule, which has been put down ruthlessly.

"It is the task of the revolutionary forces," he says, "to settle accounts with the reactionary class." In Libya, this is accomplished by public hangings. Abroad, Kadafi's opponents are assassinated.

Kadafi makes it clear in this speech that he is bent on the destruction of other than Libyan "reactionaries," specifically Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and President Numeiry of the Sudan.

"They are the agents of America. The ones who enter Camp Da-

vid and those who welcome Mubarak, who is head-to-toe sinking in treason. They entered the list of [Anwar] Sadat, the camp of shame, which must be liquidated either individually or in the form of a revolution against their regime," Kadafi says.

Most of the terrorist leaders of the world profess to believe in peace; Kadafi, possibly because he burns with such intense fanaticism, comes right out and says what he's up to. We should listen closely to him.

In this remarkable speech, he goes on to talk about Lebanon, where he says the "revolutionary forces" have won a great victory.

"The defeat which the Americans suffered in Lebanon," he says, "is not less than its defeat in Vietnam. . . .

"The [battleship] New Jersey, the most powerful vessel in the world, was used. The Marines, who can land and occupy any place in the world — they were dealt a powerful blow by the blowing up of the U.S. and French headquarters, and were forced to leave."

Kadafi goes on to gloat over the imminent abrogation (which occurred three days later) of the Lebanese government's May 17, 1983, disengagement agreement with Israel and looks forward to more victories.

"If we are able — we the revolutionary forces, the Libyans, the steadfast Syrians and the Palestinian resistance — to overthrow the May 17 agreement, it would mean that we have the power to overthrow the Camp David agreement," by the "liberation" of Egypt.

And beyond that, he says, "we must force America to fight on 100 fronts all over the earth. We must force it to fight in Lebanon, in Chad, in Sudan and to fight in El Salvador."

"We must escalate the people's liberation war in Somalia so that we may force America to fight there," and he says the same should happen in Namibia, Latin America and South Africa.

"We must wage a people's war of liberation which America cannot face up to and thus make the United States realize that it is proceeding along a road harmful to America itself so that reason will return to this maniac power.

"I say this so that Reagan, the chief, may hear. We have defeated him in Lebanon and we are celebrating our victory over him. We have forced him to flee," he declares.

The clear message in all this is that war has been declared on the United States, and bombings of our Marine barracks and embassy buildings are a part of it.

We would be foolish to take up Kadafi's challenge and commit troops to 100 fronts, but we do have to rally our allies to help resist the advance of Kadafi-style barbarianism in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

If we want to avoid committing our own soldiers, we are going to have to spend money, provide military assistance, maneuver politically and use covert action very skillfully. We haven't been doing that up to now.